

Motor Vehicles for Hire
Wednesday, February 18, 2015
Town Hall, Old Town Road
9:00 a.m.

Present: Commissioners Brad Marthens, Connie LaRue, Geoffrey Lawrence

Absent: Commissioners Patrick Evans and Vincent McAloon

Audience: Driver Owner Jim Rondinone; Owner Fran Migliaccio; BI Times representative Lars Trodson

Also present: MVFH Clerk Bonny Ryan, Town Clerk's office assistant Karen Le Roy

Brad Marthens called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

1. Public Input/Correspondence: no input or correspondence.
2. Approval of minutes, January 21, 2015: Connie LaRue moved to approve the minutes as written; motion seconded by Geoffrey Lawrence.

Ayes 3 (Marthens, LaRue, Lawrence) Nays 0 Absent 2 (Evans, McAloon)

3. Update on request to have Town Attorney look at services such as UBER: Town Attorney Ms. Kathy Merolla has been contacted re: the scope of researching UBER; the Town Council will decide whether or not to proceed with this research. Discussion included 1) one state, Nevada, has successfully blocked UBER, 2) a number of other US cities have brought lawsuits against UBER but UBER is still operating in those cities, and 3) our town clerk has stated that transporting passengers for hire without a license is prohibited under our Motor Vehicle for Hire ordinances.
4. Update on Don Thimble's taxi license: No correspondence or communication has been received to date. Mr. Thimble has to the end of February to get back to the Commission, which will make their decision at their March meeting.
5. Discussion and action on Mike Shea's request to seek relief from RI sales tax: Due to his other winter responsibilities, Mr. Shea has not yet written the request, but told Bonny that one Rhode Island community had successfully challenged the tax. Bonny will find out which community it was. Discussion included reiterating the fact that Block Island has a tourist economy. This item was tabled to the March meeting.
6. Update on requests to Council for map and rate changes (This will be on February 18, 2015 Council agenda): The map and rate changes are on the agenda for tonight's Town Council meeting, therefore no action is needed by the Commission. Mr. Marthens will represent the Commission at tonight's meeting.

With no further business, at 9:10 a.m. Ms. LaRue moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Lawrence.

Ayes 3 (Marthens, LaRue, Lawrence) Nays 0 Absent 2 (Evans, McAloon)

Minutes accepted: 3/18/2015

Karen Cadow Le Roy